

Judge: Christopher M. Alston
Chapter: 13
Hearing Date: May 12, 2022
Hearing Time: 9:30 am
Hearing Location: Judge Alston's Courtroom
700 Stewart St #7206
Seattle, WA 98101-8101

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE**

In Re:

KARIE A SIMMONS,

Debtor.

IN CHAPTER 13 PROCEEDING
NO. 22-10270-CMA

TRUSTEE'S OBJECTION TO
CONFIRMATION

The Trustee objects to confirmation of the debtor's plan filed March 22, 2022 (ECF No. 20):

1) The debtor needs to appear at the continued 341 meeting of creditors scheduled to be conducted telephonically on May 2, 2022 at 8:30 am.

2) It does not appear that the debtor served her current plan, nor either of her previous plans (ECF Nos. 16 and 17), to creditors. The debtor needs to file an amended plan, a motion to confirm her amended plan, note her motion for hearing. The debtor needs to serve her motion, plan, and notice of hearing upon all creditors and file a proof of service. In any proceeding which is to be accorded finality, due process required notice reasonably calculated, under all the circumstances, to apprise interested parties of the pendency of the action and afford them an opportunity to present their objections. *Mullane v. Central Hanover Bank & Trust Co. et al.*, 339 U.S. 306, 314 (1950).

3) The Trustee has not yet received a plan payment in this case, although the debtor does not propose any payment in her Chapter 13 plan. The debtor needs to make complete and timely plan payments to the Trustee.

4) Section III.A. of the debtor's plan states "unsure, as the secured Creditor(s) are in dispute. See

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2 page 5 #10.” This language is a modification of the form plan as Section III.A. is intended for the
3 proposal of the debtor’s plan payments to the Trustee. The debtor modified Section I.A. of the plan,
4 adding language stating “See page 5 #10”, and Section IV.A.3 adding language stating “Subject to
5 Change.” The debtor certified that the amended plan did not alter the provisions of Local Bankruptcy
6 Form 13-4. The debtor needs to use the Court mandated form plan. Local Bankr. R. 3015-1(a).
7

8 5) The debtor checked ‘yes’ in Section I.A. of her plan. While the debtor’s plan states “See
9 Exhibits” in Section X, there are no exhibits attached. Further, while it is unclear what exhibits the
10 debtor intended to attach, the attachment of exhibits would be a modification of the court mandated
11 form plan, Local Bankruptcy Form 13-4 (LBF 13-4). Local Bankr. R. 3015-1(a). Section X of the
12 form plan is for nonstandard provisions for the administration of a debtor’s Chapter 13 plan, and not a
13 method of introducing outside information. The debtor’s plan, as proposed, needs to be amended to
14 mark Section I.A. ‘no.’
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16 6) Section I.C. of the plan provides that the plan avoids a security interest or lien, but that is
17 incorrect. Moreover, even if the debtor intended to avoid a security interest or lien through the plan
18 confirmation process, the debtor did not comply with Local Bankruptcy Rule 3015-1(g) (Request to
19 Avoid a Judicial Lien or Security Interest in a Plan under 11 U.S.C. § 522(f)). The debtor needs to
20 amend Section I.C. of the plan to provide that the plan does not avoid a security interest or lien.
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22 7) The debtor’s schedules (ECF No. 14) are largely incomplete and the information the debtor
23 does provide in her scheduled is confusing and often contradictory. The debtor needs to file amended
24 Schedules A – J for completeness and accuracy.
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26 8) The debtor’s Statement of Financial Affairs (ECF No 14) is largely incomplete. The debtor
27 needs to file an amended Statement of Financial Affairs for completeness and accuracy.
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2 9) In her Schedule A/B (ECF No. 14), the debtor disclosed a checking account with Wells Fargo.
3 The debtor needs to provide a statement covering the date of filing for her Wells Fargo checking
4 account. Local Rules W.D. Wash. Bankr. 4002-1(a), Fed. R. Bankr. P. 4002(b)(2)(B).

5 10) The debtor must provide the Trustee with a copy of their last-filed tax return. Local Rules
6 W.D. Wash. Bankr. 4002-1(a), 11 U.S.C. §§ 521(e)(2)(A)(i). If the debtor asserts that she has not
7 been required to file tax returns, she need to file a sworn declaration on the docket which details the
8 years in which the debtors were not required to file tax returns and the reasons they were not required
9 to file returns.
10

11 11) The Trustee questions whether the debtor's plan was filed in good faith. 11 USC § 1325(a)(3).
12 In this case, in her Schedule D (ECF No. 14), the debtor disclosed four creditors all apparently
13 creditors with claims secured by her real property. The debtor, however, proposes no treatment to any
14 secured creditor in her plan and in fact proposes no plan payment at all. The debtor discloses these
15 same 4 creditors in her Schedule E/F (ECF No. 14) and discloses no other unsecured debt. At the
16 §341 Meeting of Creditors, the debtor testified that her understanding is that a foreclosure sale of her
17 real property had taken place in 2020 and that the property is now titled to HSBC, one of the creditors
18 the debtor schedules as having a secured claim. While a single creditor has since filed an unsecured
19 claim – LVNV Funding, LLC (ECF No. 1), the debtor's Chapter 13 filing appears to have no
20 reorganizational purpose. At best, this appears to purely be a dispute between the debtor and the
21 current holder of her mortgage obligation for which other remedy is available outside of Chapter 13
22 bankruptcy. Further, the debtor's proposed plan proposes no treatment for any creditor, not even for
23 the mortgage obligation the debtor actually scheduled and appears intent to resolve. In determining
24 good faith, the Court looks to the totality of the circumstances. *Leavitt v. Soto (In re Leavitt)*, 171
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2 F.3d 1219, 1224-25 (9th Cir. 1999). In making the good faith determination, a court should ask
3 whether the debtors have acted equitably in proposing their plan. *Goeb v. Heid (In re Goeb)*, 675 F.2d
4 1386, 1390 (9th Cir. 1982). A court's inquiry should be "directed to whether or not there has been an
5 abuse of the provisions, purpose, or spirit of Chapter XIII in the proposal or plan." *Id.* at 1390 n.9.
6 The Bankruptcy Appellate Panel of the Ninth Circuit has set out numerous factors that a court may
7 consider, including certain factors such as the amount of the proposed payments, the amount of any
8 surplus of debtor's income after paying expenses and the motivation and sincerity of the debtors in
9 seeking Chapter 13 relief. *Meyer v. Lepe (In re Lepe)*, 470 B.R. 851, 857 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 2012)
10 (citations omitted).
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13 12) While it is certainly the debtor's choice, she may want to seriously consider retaining
14 bankruptcy counsel to represent her. "The hazards which beset a layman when he seeks to represent
15 himself are obvious. He who proceeds pro se with full knowledge and understanding of the risk does
16 so with no greater rights than a litigant represented by a lawyer, and the trial court is under no
17 obligation to become an "advocate" for or to assist and guide the pro se layman through the trial
18 thicket." *Jacobsen v. Filler*, 790 F.2d 1362, 1365 n.5 (9th Cir. 1986) (citing *United States v. Pinkey*,
19 548 F.2d 305 (10th Cir. 1977))(quotations omitted).
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21 13) In sum, the debtor's plan does not satisfy the requirements of 11 U.S.C. § 1325.
22

23 14) The Trustee reserves the right to assert additional bases for this objection.
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25 THE TRUSTEE REQUESTS:
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27 That the Court deny confirmation of the debtor's plan and, if appropriate, set deadlines for debtor
28 to file and note a feasible amended plan.

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2 Dated: April 26, 2022

/s/ Kristin D. Bowen, WSBA #46688 for
Jason Wilson-Aguilar
Chapter 13 Trustee

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TRUSTEE'S OBJECTION TO CONFIRMATION - 5

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